

January 10, 2002

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Attorney General John Ashcroft, Department of Justice 950 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW Washington, DC 20530-0001

Dear Mr. Ashcroft,

It is a shame that the government has attacked Bill Gates for following his vision and the American Dream. If you recall, he basically started Microsoft in a garage on nothing more than a wish and a promise. And because he worked very hard to develop, produce and market an outstanding operating system his company grew to become the standard and leading technology innovator in the world.

I am totally opposed to the governments' actions against Microsoft, for they were unjust, misguided and politically motivated. However, the fact that a settlement was ultimately reached is a very positive development because settlement is preferable to years of continued litigation, especially in this matter.

One aspect of the settlement that strikes me as profound is Microsoft's agreement to disclose for use by its competitors various interfaces that are internal to Windows' operating system products. I understand this is unprecedented in an antitrust settlement. This alone should end all claims that Microsoft monopolizes the industry. If that weren't enough, Microsoft has also agreed to make available to its competitors, additional codes implemented in Windows. Anyone who thinks Microsoft escaped any serious measure of punitive retribution is remiss.

Continued litigation will only serve to further distract the technology industry from innovating. Please finalize this settlement as soon as possible.

If you want to go after an industry that is corrupt than investigate the large oil companies.

Sincerely, Hay Black

Gary Black Owner, President